

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's"

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866.

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.]

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The Watchman and Southron.

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SUMTER, S. C.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.
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WALKS AND TALKS

IN AND ABOUT

SUMTER.

What a Watchman and Southron

Reporter Finds to Say

Concerning the Town and Its

People.

An "Olla Podrida" of Information

Relative to a Thriving,

Enterprising Place and a

Prosperous, Progressive

People, &c.

[BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

One who visits Sumter for the first

time, as he casually inspects the town,

is irresistibly led to the conclusion:

"What a charming spot." The broad

streets, almost level as a floor; the

abundance of shade trees; the attractive

private residences, embowered in

foliage; substantial business blocks;

numerous churches and schools; cleanliness

of streets—these and the many

indefinable attractions, serve to favorably

attract the beholder, and these

favorable opinions are deepened and

strengthened by association with the

polite and courteous people.

A glance at any map of the State

may disclose the absolute and relative

position of Sumter County and its capital.

It is but about eighty miles from

Sumter to tidewater; something more

than a hundred miles in an opposite

direction brings one to the mountain

region, and here, occupying a broad

plateau between the sea and the mountains

is the garden spot of the State. It is a

section of country usually free from

malaria or epidemic; it is a section rich

in its natural resources, and is the home

of a cultured people.

By rail the distance to Charleston is

95 miles; to Columbia, the State Capital,

it is 44 miles. Effective railway

service, through the Atlantic Coast

Line and its connections, places our

town in close relations with both the

commercial and political metropolises of

the State, as well as with the country

at large, and while additional transportation

facilities are most undoubtedly most

desirable, still the community is

now fairly well served.

Sumter has a population variously

estimated at from 2,200 to 2,500—

doubtless the latter estimate is most

nearly correct. During the past two

or three years there has been a marked

increase, and at the same time there has

been a corresponding increase in building

activity both in town and country.

The fact is, Sumter is something but a

stagnant place, notwithstanding that

some croakers exhort themselves to create

the impression that it is. There is

healthful activity in business circles,

and while there is no boom there is no

decadence. A pleasing, equitable stand-

ard is maintained, and while the town

would prove a poor field for the operations

of a speculator it is all the more

desirable home for one who wishes to

avail himself of educational and religious

advantages or facilities for his

children, or who wishes to reside in a

town where the expense of living is re-

duced to the minimum.

Sumter is not a manufacturing town,

properly speaking, though a cotton mill

Liberty and Church Streets, Rev. R.

P. Banks, pastor.

Episcopal, frame, Liberty Street, Rev.

C. C. Brown, pastor.

Church of the Holy Comforter, Epis-

copalian, Main Street, Rev. John Ker-

shaw, pastor.

Presbyterian, Main Street, Rev. N.

W. Edwards, pastor.

Of colored Churches there are:

St. Pisgah A. M. E. Church.—Rev

J. G. Samuels, pastor.

Bunnett Church.—J. R. Townsend,

pastor.

Shiloh Baptist Church.—Rev. J. H.

Harmon, pastor.

Of the schools of Sumter we will

speak further on in this review.

Sumter is a prominent cotton market.

There are thirteen regular cotton buy-

ers on the market, as follows: Messrs.

Stables, Rytenberg, Solomons, O'Don-

nell, Barnett, Winn, Ducker & Bolt-

man, Bogin, Monaghan, Moses, Reid,

Moran and Casick. Of all or nearly all

of these gentlemen we refer to at some

length in another portion of this paper.

The amount of cotton annually market-

ed here is not far from 15,000 bales—

more, however, is shipped from this

station.

Three newspapers are published here:

The Watchman and Southron, Temper-

ance Worker, and the Advance.

SCHOOLS.

Sumter's schools have more than a

local reputation. They are well con-

ducted and well patronized, and they

have deservedly gained the confidence

of parents and guardians.

The public school system of the

County comprises sixteen school dis-

tricts, each under the control of a Board

of Trustees, while the School Commis-

sioner exercises general supervision.

Here in Sumter we have two free

schools, white and colored, respectively,

sustained by a tax of two mills upon

real and personal property and by poll

tax, amounting to about \$1,800 and

enabling the schools to be kept open

from five to seven months each year.

The school for whites is located upon

Republican street, its principal is T. P.

McQueen, who has been identified with

educational work in the County for a

number of years; he has two assistants;

the attendance averages from 100

to 125. The colored school is upon

Council Street; its principal is Miss

M. A. Savage; three assistants are em-

ployed and the average attendance is

from 150 to 175. The trustees for this

district are W. R. Delgar, H. F. Wil-

son and D. James Winn. The schools

are in efficient working order, and the

Commissioners speak highly of them.

St. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, with an at-

tendance of 60 or thereabouts, is located

at the corner of Liberty and Magnolia

streets. It is a branch of the school of

the same name at Charleston, and is

under the charge of Sister Mary Joseph,

Mother Superior. It is both a boarding

and day school, and is esteemed for its

thorough work.

THE SUMTER INSTITUTE, under the

control of Mrs. Browne and Miss

Cooper, is also a boarding and day

school for females, and is well sustain-

ed, the attendance usually being from

70 to 75. The Institute is located upon

Washington Street. Its reputation

is not only flattering but well de-

served.

THE SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL was open-

ed about one year ago by the Messrs.

Dick, and it has been the recipient of a

substantial patronage, 50 or more pu-

pils having been in attendance during

the past year. Its location is upon

is reasonable prospect of their speedy

completion.

There are three fire engine compa-

nies. The Sumter Fire Engine Com-

pany is an independent organization,

and has provided its own engine, reel,

hose, &c. The town furnishes the en-

gine house. A. W. Suder is foreman,

Neil O'Donnell assistant foreman,

Marion Sanders secretary and treasurer.

The company has a membership of 43.

The "Wide Awake" is a colored and

paid organization. E. D. Peterson is

president, Robert Ross, vice president,

H. J. Maxwell, secretary and treasur-

er. There are 35 members.

The "Red Jackets" are a volunteer

company, colored. W. J. Montang

is president, T. Preston, vice president,

Ralph Cordes, secretary and treasurer;

40 members, nearly half of whom are

officers of some grade. All of these

companies have hand engines.

OTHER RESOURCES.

The Southern Express Co. has an

office here, and so has the W. U. Tele-

graph Co. Each has a very considerable

amount of business. We have a

National Bank, written of in detail else-

where, and a Building and Loan Asso-

ciation, and each is prosperous.

And now we come to write of the

manufacturing, mercantile and other

specific interests that have centered

here. Our memoranda has been gain-

ed from a hundred different sources,

and we have certainly tried to be fair.

We do not desire to grind any special

axe, preferring to let facts speak for

themselves. At the head of the list,

for convenience sake, we place:

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SUM-

TER.

The organization of the National

Bank of Sumter, which was effected in

November, 1883, was not altogether an

easy matter. As a fact the commu-

nity was slow to move. W. D. Bland-

ing, Esq., if we are not mistaken set

the ball in motion, and Mr. T. J. Tou-

mey took it up and did much in enlist-

ing interest that finally resulted in suc-

cess. The organization, however, seemed

hard to reach, and fears were entertain-

ed at one time of success, but Mr. R. M.

Wallace, who had come here from

Charleston to accomplish the under-

taking, finally enlisted the co-operation

of a number of the prominent citizens

of town and vicinity, and in January,

1884, the enterprise began business.

Now after the lapse of a little more

than one and a half years, it is not diffi-

cult to perceive the good that the Bank

has accomplished, and if the attempt

is made, as is seriously contemplated,

an additional \$50,000 could be secured.

The original paid in capital was

\$50,000; Robert M. Wallace was elect-

ed President, H. Harby Vice-President

and Chas. E. Bartlett, cashier. Since

then Mr. Harby has been succeeded in

the Vice-Presidency by Dr. A. J.

China. The first Board of Directors

comprised R. M. Wallace, A. N. Free-

land, A. J. China, H. Harby, Marion

Moise, A. A. Solomons, M. G. Ryten-

berg, R. P. Monaghan and R. C.

McFaddin, but one change has

been effected in the Board, R. D. Lee

being elected in place of Mr. McFad-

din, who resigned because of his in-

ability to attend Board meetings as he

lived some distance in the country.

This Board is made up of professional

and business men, all of whom are

well known as being thoroughly identi-

fied with the material welfare of the

town and county, and it is a working

Board, holding regular meetings every

Thursday.

measure is carried out such habits will

be much more greatly encouraged. It

is in contemplation to organize a sav-

ing's bank department, and the propo-

sition cannot be too highly commended

—such a department would prove of

incalculable good.

This fact remains: whatever of hea-

itation or of doubt was felt by any in

the community when the National Bank

of Sumter was being organized has

vanished. In its business relations

with the people the bank has been as

liberal as is consistent with sound

banking principles, and realizing the

important relations that the bank bears

to every interest here, its officers and

directors have merited the designation

of having proved faithful to the trust

reposed in them.

A few words relative to the President

and Cashier will not be out of place

here. As we have said, Mr. Wallace

came from Charleston, purposely to or-

ganize this enterprise. He is a native

of York County, and by profession is